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CONTACT: Nikki Horner
Information Officer
(615)741-2257 (O)
(615)383-2611 (H)

NASHVILLE—Tennessee's unemployment rate dipped below the national average with a February jobless rate of 4.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point. The national rate registered 4.2 percent, Commissioner Michael E. Magill of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development announced today.

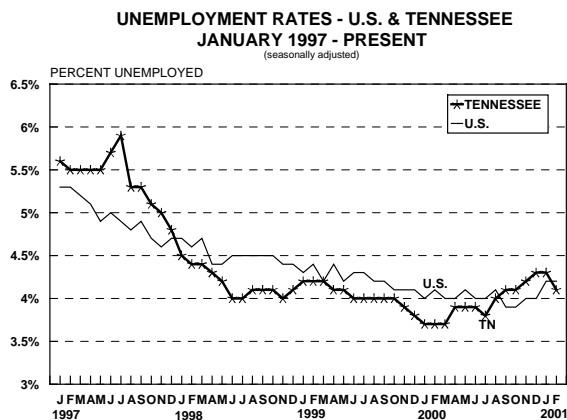
"The job outlook in Tennessee is good, as evidenced by the drop in the unemployment rate and continued increase in employment growth across the state," Magill said.

At this time last year, Tennessee's jobless rate was 3.7 percent, while the national average was 4.1 percent.

"Over the past year, Tennessee added 38,500 jobs, with the bulk of those in the services and retail trade industry," Magill said.

Over the month, non-farm jobs showed employment increased in the services industry, up by 8,600 primarily in business and health services. State and local government added 7,000 jobs due to seasonal increases in student workers and a rise in substitute teachers. Job losses took place in manufacturing, which lost 3,000 jobs, and several categories of retail trade, including a 1,200 decline in general merchandise.

The yearly comparison shows continued growth in the services industry, which added 22,500 jobs, with 6,800 of those in business services. Retail trade was up by 12,600 and government added 6,800 jobs. Employment declines took place in several manufacturing areas—apparel, electronic/electric equipment, transportation equipment—as well as food stores (retail trade).



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

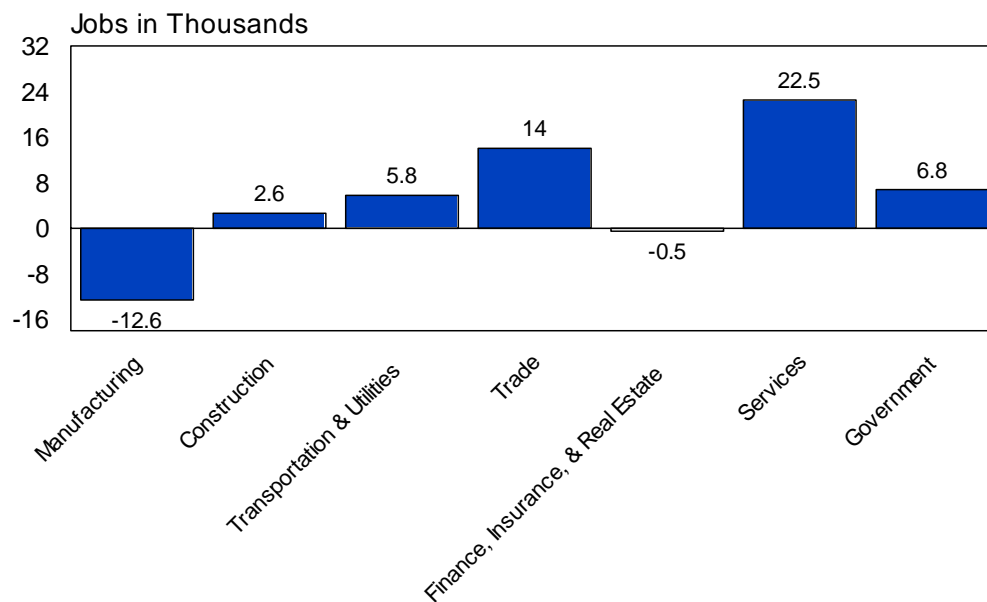
February 2001 (preliminary) - BM2000

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Feb.	Jan.	
UNITED STATES	141,751,000	135,815,000	5,936,000	4.2 %	4.2 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,864,800	2,747,900	116,900	4.1	4.3	-0.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted						
UNITED STATES	141,238,000	134,774,000	6,464,000	4.6 %	4.7 %	-0.1 %
TENNESSEE	2,830,000	2,705,600	124,400	4.4	4.9	-0.5

OVER THE YEAR JOB GROWTH

By Major Industry (February 2000-2001)



County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, March 29, 2001.

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NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures." Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.